available funds to States/UTs on the basis of reduction of actual birth rate, (4) increasing the coverage of younger age couples through promotion of spacing methods, (5) strengthening family welfare schemes in urban areas especially in slum pockets, (6) revitalising training activities of medical/para-medical personnel with emphasis on motivational and counselling aspects, (7) sustaining the good work done under the Universal Immunisation Programme and strengthening of other interventions for Maternal and Child Health Care, (8) reorientation of information, education and communication efforts to focus on the quality of life issues and inter-personal communication, (9) involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations to promote active community participation in the programm, (10) gearing up the implementation machinery in the States/UTs and (11) evolving high level inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national state and district level etc.

Spreading of typhoid in India

304. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Typhoid spreading in India" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20-10-92;

(b) if so, whether during the National Conference of microbiologists held at New Delhi, it has been stressed that the typhoid is spreading in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to adopt any policy to check the spread of typhoid in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the conference of Microbiologists various scientific papers presented, stressed on the emergence of drug-resistance in typhoid producing organisms necessitating the use of newer drugs for treatment, which are expensive.

Studies conducted by ICMR have revealed that the typhoid fever was hitherto caused by Chloraphyemicol sensitives *S. typhi*. But recently the typhoid cases which are being reported are believed to be caused by multi-drug resistant *S. typhi*. ' Results of these studies have shown that *S. typhi*. isolated from cases of typhoid fever was resistant to all commonly used antibiotics. The organism was, however, found to be sensitive to Furazolidone which is an inexpensive antibiotic drug.

(c) and (d). The typhoid is primarily a water borne disease and proper disposal of excreta and provision of safe drinking water are crucial to control the disease. Steps on these are being taken by various concerned Ministries and Organisations.

Ban on Indian Chocolates in Foreign Countries

305. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the chocolates manufacture in the country and even popular here have been banned in several foreign countries;

(b) whether the popular brand of Indian chocolates have been found hazardous to health due to maximum concentration of nickel;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government on such ban in several foreign countries; and

(d) by when the use of chocolates would be banned in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a)

to (c). While we are not aware of any ban on popular brands of chocolate in several countries, a controversy has arisen because the invironmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, a private Laboratory, has reported nickel content in different brands of chocolate in the range of 15 to 41.5 ppm. analysis of random samples of different brands of chocolate by six national laboratory viz. (1) Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta; (ii) Central Food Laboratory, Pune; (iii) Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore; (iv) Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore; (v) National Institute of occupational Health, Ahmedabad; (vi) National Institute of Nurition, Hyderabad; has revealed nickel content in the range of ND to 2.08 ppm.

The Government has got the issue examined by the experts who have advised as follows:—

(i) a group of experts be constituted under the Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad to review the method of determination of nickel in food including chocolate and examine the available data.

(ii) The Indian Council of Medical Research should evaluate the scientific evidence of toxicity of nickel when consumed orally and may advise the Government on the need for setting standard for nickel content in food article.

The national Institute of Occupational Health and the Indian Council of Medical Research respectively have been advised in this regard.

(d) At present there is no proposal to ban the use of chocolates in India.

Report of Inquiry Committee at Safdarjang Hospital

306. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inquiry Committee looking into the incident in which eight patients developed reaction on being given dextrose intraveneously at Safdarjung Hospital has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether serious lapses and irregularities on the part of Hospital authorities have come to the notice; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d). An enquiry has already been conducted in the matter. The report of the enquiry committee is under examination.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान में मौतें

307. **श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर:** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान के हृदय वक्ष केन्द्र में नवम्बर के पहले सप्ताह में कई रोगियों की मृत्यु हुई थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान में बड़े पैमाने पर रोगियों की मौतों के क्या कारण हैं, इन मौतों के लिए कौन दोषी है तथा दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है, और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस मामले की जांच किस एजेंसी द्वारा कराई गई है तथा तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती डी० के० तारा देवी सिद्धार्थ): (क) और (ख) अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नई दिल्ली द्वारा सूचित किया गया है कि अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान के हृदय-वक्ष केन्द्र में नवम्बर, 1992 में दो रोगियों की मृत्यु हुई। उनकी 14 सितम्बर, 1992 तथा 9 अक्तूबर, 1992 को दो अलग-अलग ऑपरेशन कक्षों में दो अलग-अलग शल्य चिकित्सकों द्वारा बाई-पास सर्जरी की गई। 14.9.92 को ऑपरेशन किये गये रोगी की 50